(b) A Working Group constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources brought out in its report (1991) that an area of 2.46 million hectares is suffering from the problem of water-logging in command areas, Statewise details are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) Programmes like National Water Management Project and Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme are being continued during the VIII Plan and these envisage efficient irrigation water management. Activities being undertaken under these programmes help in checking the problem of waterlogging, in the irrigatinn commands.

Statement

Statewise details of areasunder Waterlogging

Sl.No.	State	Statewise wate logged area in thousands hectares
1	Andhra Pradesh	266 40
2	Assam	..
3	Bihar	610.70
4	Gujarat	172.59
5	Haryana	249.00
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.20
7	Jammu & Kashmi r	1.50
8	Karnataka	24.54
9	Kerala	11.61
10	Madhya Pradesh	73.12
11	Maharashtra	15.35
12	Orissa	196.26
13	Punjab	200 00
14	Rajasthan	179.50
15	Tamilnadu	16.19
16	Uttar Pradesh	430.00
	TOTAL :	2455 96
	Million ha.	2 46

Decline in ground water level

5006. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the gradual decline in the ground water level in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the fall in the water level; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The gradual decline in ground water level in some parts of the country is attributable to several natural and human factors like heavy withdrawals exceeding replenishment, excessive run-off and variations in rain fall etc.

(b) and (c) Following steps have been envisaged:

(i) A model Bill for Control and Regulation of Ground Water has been prepared and circulated to the State Governments to check the excessive extraction of ground water by enacting suitable legislation.

(ii) The Central Ground Water Board has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the State Governments in artificial recharge of ground water. The Scheme is in consultation stage with concerned agencies.

(iii) Guidelines have been circulated to the State Governments for formulation of Area Specific Artificial Recharge Schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

Survey conducted for ground water potential in Gujarat

5007. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Ground Water Board has conducted any survey in the State of Gujarat to assess the ground water potential;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to conduct a survey in the